



ALPAS

-Freedom from the shackles of mundane norms

BISHOP COTTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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NEWSLETTER FROM THE PG DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the P.G. Department of English Studies, I am glad to present our 5th Weekly Wall Journal 2024-2025 "Alpas" is a Filipino phrase that means to be free from the shackles of monotony. It is the ability to get away, to feel a sense of freedom, and escape the mundane. The journal for this week is based on the theme "Ode to Greek Literature.". The journal attempts to explore and record various themes within the field of English Studies. We could reach this stage through the faculty's constant support and the intellectual generosity of the authors and scholars we encounter in our syllabus.

One of the objectives of this journal is to encourage its students and faculty to publish scholarly articles, creative writing and enriching reviews to further the discourse on the weekly themes. Readers can notice the progression of ideas made through book and film reviews, which emerge as an important section of this journal. The book review section this time features "History of Greek Literature by Albin Lesky" put together by Ms. Sowmya e student of the 2nd semester. We also provide a platform for creative writing and critical thinking, towards which Mrs. Abilin Sharina, from 2nd semester has authored a short story "The Eternal Flame of Phaedra". Ms. Manju B of 2nd semester puts her thoughts on the theme in the form of a poem. The essay section features "Greek literature" by Ms. Afifia Fatima of 2nd semester. The movie review section features "Troy" by Ms. Vindhya Shree k.s of 2nd semester.

The MA English weekly wall journal encourages students from other disciplines to contribute in the areas of creative writing and critical thinking. We would be greatly pleased to have them published in our future editions.

Vindhya Shree K.S
STUDENT EDITOR

ALPAS

Editorial Team

Chief Editor: Dr. K Rita Josephine

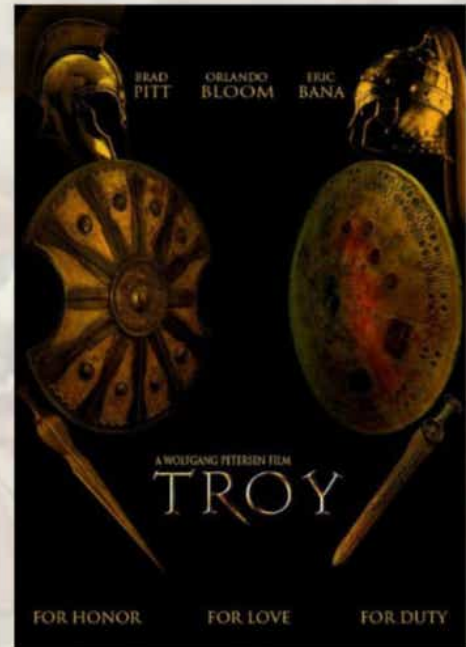
Faculty Editors: Ms. Samantha Christopher, Ms. Shwetha M.

Student Editor: Ms. Vindhya Shree K.S

MOVIE REVIEW

TROY

Troy, directed by Wolfgang Petersen, is a visually impressive movie that tells the ancient story of love, betrayal, and war from Homer's Iliad. The film stars Brad Pitt as Achilles, Eric Bana as Hector, and Orlando Bloom as Paris. The character Achilles performed well, depicting both his fierceness in combat and his complex personality. Hector on the other hand is honorable and serious, constructing him as a strong contrast to Achilles. Orlando Bloom's Paris is less interesting and sometimes is overshadowed by the other characters, but he does capture Paris's youthful recklessness. Impressively set and scene comes splendidly.



The movie has huge sets and exciting battle scenes that showcase the scale of the Trojan War. In archaic times The Siege of Troy and the duel between Achilles and Hector are particularly well done, with intense and realistic action. However, the film struggles to fit the rich and complex story of the Iliad into one movie. The script often focuses more on big scenes than on developing the characters deeply. This can make some emotional moments feel less powerful. The love story between Paris and Helen doesn't have enough chemistry to fully explain why the war starts. The music adds an epic quality to the movie. Troy shines in its visual storytelling and action but falls short in developing its characters and story depth. It's an ambitious movie that brings the ancient myth to life with grandeur and spectacle, even if it doesn't fully capture the emotional and thematic richness of the original tale. Fans of epic movies will find Troy an exciting, if imperfect, look at one of history's greatest wars.

VINDHYA SHREE K.S
5th weekly

Short Story

The Eternal Flame of Phaedra

In a small village nestled between the rolling hills and the vast sea, there lived a young woman named Phaedra. Known for her radiant beauty and gentle spirit, she was loved by all who met her. Her life, however, was about to take a turn that would forever echo in the annals of Greek legend. One crisp morning, as Phaedra strolled along the rocky coastline collecting sea glass, she stumbled upon a peculiar object. Half-buried in the sand was a small, intricately carved box made of polished olive wood. Unable to resist her curiosity, she opened it. Inside, she found a glowing ember that flickered with an unnatural light, brighter and more vivid than any flame she had ever seen. Unbeknownst to Phaedra, this ember was a gift from Hephaestus, the god of fire and forge, who had lost it during one of his earthly forays. The ember was a fragment of the Eternal Flame, a powerful source of energy capable of granting immortality and immense strength to anyone who possessed it. As Phaedra cradled the ember, she felt a warmth spread through her body, filling her with an overwhelming sense of vitality. Her senses sharpened, and she could hear the whispers of the wind and the distant songs of the sea. Word of her newfound energy spread quickly, attracting the attention of King Lycaon, a ruler renowned for his ruthless pursuit of power. King Lycaon, driven by his insatiable greed, devised a plan to steal the ember from Phaedra. He sent his trusted advisor, Thasos, to the village under the guise of a humble scholar seeking knowledge of the artifact. Thasos befriended Phaedra, learning her secrets and the depth of her connection to the ember. He marveled at her kindness and the pure light that seemed to emanate from her. One moonlit night, Thasos, torn between his loyalty to the king and his growing admiration for Phaedra, warned her of the impending danger. He revealed Lycaon's plan to seize the ember and urged her to flee to the Temple of Hestia, where the sacred flame of the hearth goddess burned eternal. Grateful for Thasos's honesty, Phaedra set out for the temple, the ember concealed within her cloak. However, King Lycaon had anticipated her flight and sent his soldiers to intercept her. As they neared the temple, a fierce storm began to brew, the sky darkening as if the gods themselves were angered. Phaedra, with no choice left, decided to stand her ground. She drew upon the ember's power, and with a prayer to Hephaestus, she transformed the tiny flame into a blazing inferno. The soldiers, blinded by the searing light, fled in terror. In that moment of intense heat and light, Hephaestus appeared before her. Moved by her bravery and pure heart, he took the ember and placed it in her heart, making her the living embodiment of the Eternal Flame. Phaedra was lifted to the heavens, where she became the goddess of vitality and eternal youth, a guardian of life's essence. King Lycaon, thwarted and enraged, returned to his kingdom, his heart filled with bitterness. Thasos, now free from his treacherous service, became a loyal follower of Phaedra, spreading tales of her courage and kindness across the lands. Phaedra's story became a beacon of hope, a reminder of the power of purity and courage. Her legend, enshrined in the stars, continued to inspire generations, a testament to the eternal flame that burns within each heart willing to stand against the darkness.

BOOK REVIEW

A history of Greek literature

"A History of Greek Literature" by Albin Lesky is a comprehensive and authoritative work that explores the rich and diverse literary tradition of ancient Greece. Lesky, a renowned classical philologist, delves deeply into various genres and periods of Greek literature. Lesky's work spans from the earliest epic poetry of Homer and Hesiod to the later periods of Greek literature, including Hellenistic and Roman times. This broad scope provides readers with a thorough understanding of the evolution of Greek literary forms and themes. Lesky meticulously analyzes major works and authors, offering detailed interpretations of texts such as the Iliad, the Odyssey, the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the comedies of Aristophanes, and the philosophical writings of Plato and Aristotle. The book places Greek literature within its historical, social, and cultural contexts, helping readers appreciate the interplay between literature and the broader developments in Greek society. Lesky's scholarship is evident throughout the book, with careful attention to linguistic details, textual criticism, and the transmission of texts. His work is based on extensive research and a deep understanding of the primary sources. Despite its scholarly depth, Lesky's writing is accessible to both specialists and general readers interested in Greek literature. The book strikes a balance between detailed academic discussion and engaging storytelling. The book has been highly regarded by scholars and students of classical studies. It is often praised for its clarity, thoroughness, and the way it synthesizes a vast amount of information into a coherent narrative. Overall, Albin Lesky's "A History of Greek Literature" is considered a seminal work in the field of classical studies. It remains an essential reference for anyone interested in understanding the literary achievements of ancient Greece and their lasting impact on Western literature and culture.

Sowmya C

5th weekly



" Odes to Greek Lore "



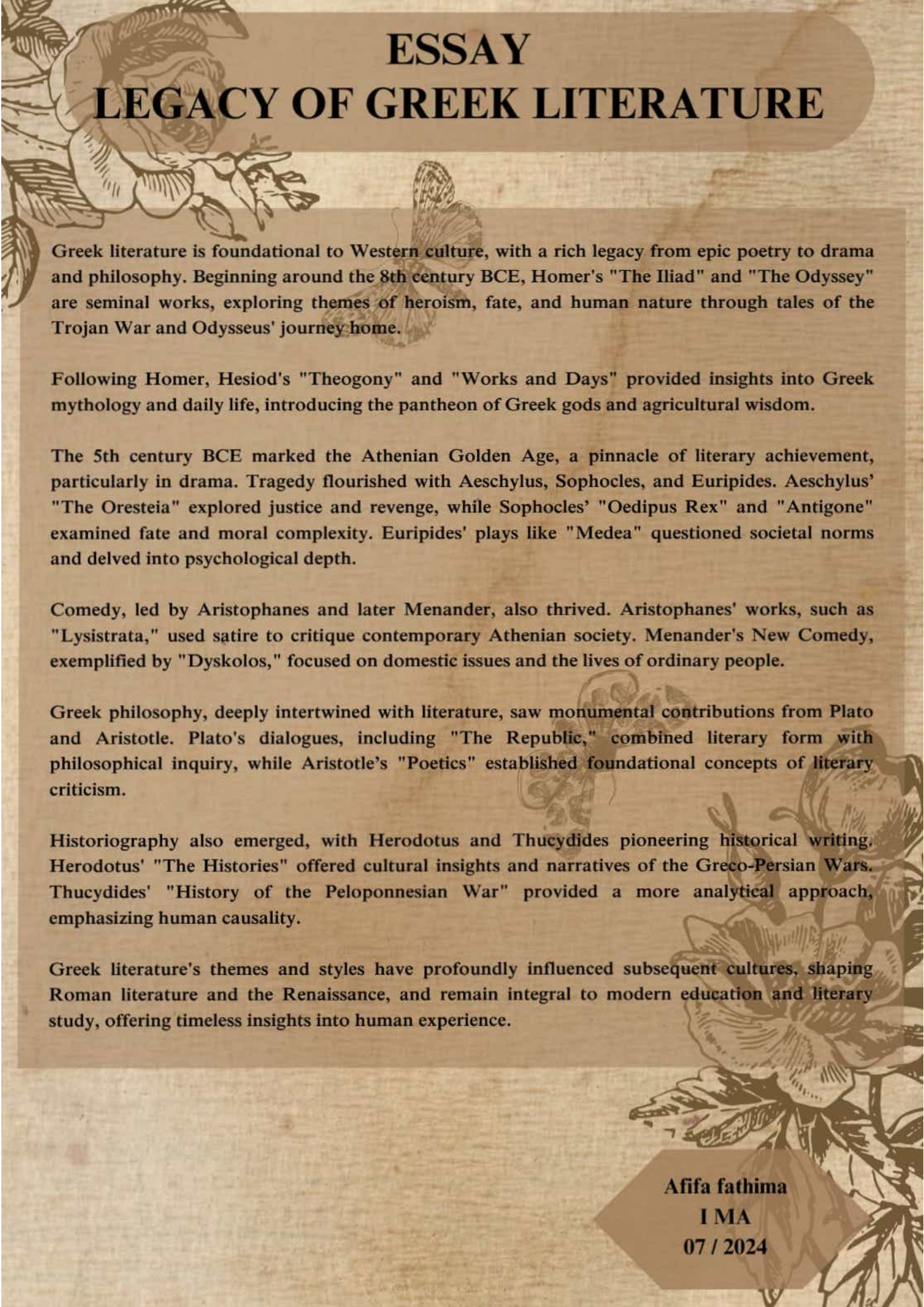
In Athens' streets where wisdom flows,
The seeds of thought in silence grow,
Plato's cave and Aristotle's mind,
In ancient texts, truth entwined.

By tragic stage where actors weep,
Euripides' depth, emotions deep,
Through epic tales and verse refined,
Homer's heroes, gods aligned.

Greek literature, a beacon bright,
Guiding through the darkest night,
In every line, a spark of light,
Eternal wisdom brought to sight.



~ Manju B
I MA
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ESSAY

LEGACY OF GREEK LITERATURE

Greek literature is foundational to Western culture, with a rich legacy from epic poetry to drama and philosophy. Beginning around the 8th century BCE, Homer's "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey" are seminal works, exploring themes of heroism, fate, and human nature through tales of the Trojan War and Odysseus' journey home.

Following Homer, Hesiod's "Theogony" and "Works and Days" provided insights into Greek mythology and daily life, introducing the pantheon of Greek gods and agricultural wisdom.

The 5th century BCE marked the Athenian Golden Age, a pinnacle of literary achievement, particularly in drama. Tragedy flourished with Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. Aeschylus' "The Oresteia" explored justice and revenge, while Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" and "Antigone" examined fate and moral complexity. Euripides' plays like "Medea" questioned societal norms and delved into psychological depth.

Comedy, led by Aristophanes and later Menander, also thrived. Aristophanes' works, such as "Lysistrata," used satire to critique contemporary Athenian society. Menander's New Comedy, exemplified by "Dyskolos," focused on domestic issues and the lives of ordinary people.

Greek philosophy, deeply intertwined with literature, saw monumental contributions from Plato and Aristotle. Plato's dialogues, including "The Republic," combined literary form with philosophical inquiry, while Aristotle's "Poetics" established foundational concepts of literary criticism.

Historiography also emerged, with Herodotus and Thucydides pioneering historical writing. Herodotus' "The Histories" offered cultural insights and narratives of the Greco-Persian Wars. Thucydides' "History of the Peloponnesian War" provided a more analytical approach, emphasizing human causality.

Greek literature's themes and styles have profoundly influenced subsequent cultures, shaping Roman literature and the Renaissance, and remain integral to modern education and literary study, offering timeless insights into human experience.

Afifa fathima

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07 / 2024